



United States
of America

Congressional Record

PROCEEDINGS AND DEBATES OF THE 110th CONGRESS, FIRST SESSION

Vol. 153

WASHINGTON, WEDNESDAY, JUNE 6, 2007

No. 90

House of Representatives

The House met at 10 a.m. and was called to order by the Speaker pro tempore (Mr. McNULTY).

DESIGNATION OF THE SPEAKER PRO TEMPORE

The SPEAKER pro tempore laid before the House the following communication from the Speaker:

WASHINGTON, DC, June 6, 2007.

I hereby appoint the Honorable MICHAEL R. McNULTY to act as Speaker pro tempore on this day.

NANCY PELOSI,
Speaker of the House of Representatives.

PRAYER

The Reverend Zane Fishel, Temple Baptist Church, Mount Airy, North Carolina, offered the following prayer:

Our Great and Almighty Father, we thank You for the blessings of this day and the opportunity that we have to make a difference in our world.

I pray that Your all-knowing wisdom be granted to each person responsible for the decisions that govern this great Nation. May Your divine leadership be followed as they seek Your paths.

Give Your grace to these Representatives in the face of opposition and Your courage to enable them to stand for truth and right.

We know the issues that face this country are complex and some are seemingly unresolvable. But we look to You for wisdom, knowledge and guidance to assist the men and women with this awesome responsibility.

Make America a stronger Nation by using these individuals to make Godly decisions. God bless our President, our Representatives, and God bless our troops and pour out Your richest blessings on America.

We ask this in the name of our Eternal Lord and Savior, Jesus Christ. Amen.

THE JOURNAL

The SPEAKER pro tempore. The Chair has examined the Journal of the last day's proceedings and announces to the House his approval thereof.

Pursuant to clause 1, rule I, the Journal stands approved.

PLEDGE OF ALLEGIANCE

The SPEAKER pro tempore. Will the gentleman from Texas (Mr. BRADY) come forward and lead the House in the Pledge of Allegiance.

Mr. BRADY of Texas led the Pledge of Allegiance as follows:

I pledge allegiance to the Flag of the United States of America, and to the Republic for which it stands, one nation under God, indivisible, with liberty and justice for all.

MESSAGE FROM THE SENATE

A message from the Senate by Ms. Curtis, one of its clerks, announced that the Senate agreed to the following resolution.

S. RES. 220

In the Senate of the United States, June 5, 2007.

Whereas, Senator Craig Thomas had a long and honorable history of public service, serving in the United States Marine Corps, the Wyoming State Legislature, the United States House of Representatives, and the United States Senate;

Whereas, Senator Craig Thomas represented the people of Wyoming with honor and distinction for over 20 years;

Whereas, Senator Craig Thomas was first elected to the United States House of Representatives in 1989;

Whereas, Senator Craig Thomas was subsequently elected 3 times to the United States Senate by record margins of more than 70 percent; and

Whereas, Senator Craig Thomas's life and career were marked by the best of his Western values: hard work, plain speaking, common sense, courage, and integrity: Now, therefore, be it

Resolved, That the United States Senate has heard with profound sorrow and deep re-

gret the announcement of the death of the Honorable Craig Thomas, a Senator from the State of Wyoming;

Resolved, That the Senate mourns the loss of one of its most esteemed members, Senator Craig Thomas, and expresses its condolences to the people of Wyoming and to his wife, Susan, and his 4 children;

Resolved, That the Secretary of the Senate shall communicate this resolution to the House of Representatives and transmit an enrolled copy thereof to the family of Senator Craig Thomas; and

Resolved, That when the Senate adjourns today, it shall stand adjourned as a further mark of respect to the memory of Senator Craig Thomas.

MOMENT OF SILENCE IN MEMORY OF SENATOR CRAIG THOMAS

The SPEAKER pro tempore. The House will rise and observe a moment of silence in memory of Senator Craig Thomas.

WELCOMING THE REVEREND ZANE FISHEL

(Ms. FOXX asked and was given permission to address the House for 1 minute.)

Ms. FOXX. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to honor the Reverend Zane Fishel, who is the House of Representatives' guest chaplain today.

Reverend Fishel comes to us from Pilot Mountain and Mount Airy, North Carolina, where he shepherds the flock at Temple Baptist Church. Reverend Fishel has faithfully served in the ministry of Temple Baptist since 1997 and he became the full-time youth minister in 1999 after sensing a call to serve God in the local church.

With the passing of Temple Baptist's pastor in 2003, Reverend Fishel took up his current role as the church's pastor, where he is devoted to spreading the good news to his congregation and community.

Under his leadership, the church body at Temple Baptist Church in

□ This symbol represents the time of day during the House proceedings, e.g., □ 1407 is 2:07 p.m.

Matter set in this typeface indicates words inserted or appended, rather than spoken, by a Member of the House on the floor.



Printed on recycled paper.

H6011

Mount Airy has thrived. He has worked tirelessly to increase the outreach and effectiveness of Temple Baptist in the local community. He has shown a remarkable commitment to educating leaders in the local church so that many within the church can use their God-given gifts.

I am very pleased that Reverend Fishel joined us today to open the House of Representatives with such an inspiring prayer. He is a model of service to God, country and community; and he plays a vital spiritual role in Surry County, North Carolina. I am proud to welcome him to the people's house.

ANNOUNCEMENT BY THE SPEAKER PRO TEMPORE

The SPEAKER pro tempore. The Chair will entertain up to 15 1-minute speeches on each side.

PAYCHECK FAIRNESS ACT

(Ms. DELAURO asked and was given permission to address the House for 1 minute.)

Ms. DELAURO. Mr. Speaker, I rise today in support of every working woman who faces pay discrimination in the workforce and call on the House to pass the Paycheck Fairness Act. Last week, the Supreme Court ruled 5-4 to limit the ability of women and other employees to sue their employers for pay discrimination under title VII. The court decided that a victim of pay disparity should be able to document a discriminatory difference in pay within a mere 6 months, despite the typical office secrecy over income.

The Supreme Court is essentially rolling back efforts to ensure equal pay. When women still earn only 77 percent of what men earn, this ruling leaves these individuals with no recourse or remedy.

The Paycheck Fairness Act will help women confront discrimination in the workplace and give teeth to the Equal Pay Act by prohibiting employers from retaliating against employees who share salary information with their coworkers; allowing women to sue for punitive damages and recovery of back pay; and create a new program to help strengthen the negotiation skills of girls and women.

Mr. Speaker, next Sunday, we commemorate 44 years since John F. Kennedy signed the Equal Pay Act and still equal pay is not a fact of life for American women. It is time to value the work that women do in our society. Let's pass the Paycheck Fairness Act.

HOUSTON'S PASSPORT CRISIS

(Mr. BRADY of Texas asked and was given permission to address the House for 1 minute.)

Mr. BRADY of Texas. Mr. Speaker, my message today is to our State Department in Houston. We have a prob-

lem, a serious passport problem that reached a crisis stage. We have families who applied in February for their passports that have not received them yet. We have wives that can't meet their soldier husbands on leave from Iraq. We have families who aren't able to go to experimental surgery out of this country, families leaving for the last time before college together who are simply denied the opportunity to travel.

Our passport offices are overwhelmed. Our people wait in line for hours, if not days, getting there at 4 o'clock in the morning. We appreciate the 20 additional staff the State Department sent. They are overwhelmed. We appreciate the 1-800 number. It is a middle man and causing more problems.

We need more staff. We need more information call lines manned 24/7. We need more resources. It is wrong. As our constituents tell us, they feel like they are in a third-world country. We think they deserve better treatment than that; and this deserves immediate attention, immediate, absolute action by the State Department.

PAY DISCRIMINATION

(Mrs. MALONEY of New York asked and was given permission to address the House for 1 minute.)

Mrs. MALONEY of New York. Mr. Speaker, last week, the Supreme Court dealt a serious blow to women pursuing pay discrimination claims.

For the majority of her 20-year career, Lilly Ledbetter was paid less than her male counterparts, including those with less seniority for doing the exact same work. By her own calculations, she was now being shortchanged by about \$15,000 annually.

Her experience is, unfortunately, a common one. In the Supreme Court decision, Ledbetter versus Goodyear Tire, the Court ruled that she had missed her window of opportunity to file a claim covering the many years of discrimination she faced.

We need to close this loophole by making every pay period a new infraction. This way, employees can challenge unfair practices that persist over time but don't come to light for years later.

Inequality still exists. It is our job to fix it.

□ 1010

FIX THE LEAK OR BUY MORE BUCKETS

(Mr. POE asked and was given permission to address the House for 1 minute and to revise and extend his remarks.)

Mr. POE. Mr. Speaker, when Hurricane Rita hit southeast Texas, a pine tree fell on our house and caused a leak in the roof. The water came into the house, and I couldn't put enough buckets under the leak to catch all that

water. I didn't really know what to do. Eventually it dawned on me, I had to go up on the roof and fix the leak or water would have continued to fill all those buckets and more. The "grand bargain" immigration plan is really a plan to buy more buckets for the big leak on our border.

The government is missing the obvious. Until we fix the leak, we can never deal with all of the water from the leak. Until Uncle Sam enforces border security, we cannot solve the problem with the illegals already here.

The so-called immigration reform bill deals with the wrong issue first. It legalizes the illegals while inadequately securing the border. Secure the border and then come up with a plan that is not amnesty in dealing with the people here illegally. Otherwise, we will keep buying more buckets and the real problem will never be solved.

And that's just the way it is.

FOOD AND FARM BILL OF RIGHTS

(Mr. BLUMENAUER asked and was given permission to address the House for 1 minute and to revise and extend his remarks.)

Mr. BLUMENAUER. Mr. Speaker, Congress is in the process of updating the Nation's agricultural policy for the first time since 2002 to see if it can serve the interests of all America's farmers and ranchers. This is more than a farm bill, it is a food bill as well. Everyone who eats is affected by our food and farm policy.

Michael Pollan explained how the farm bill is the reason that a package of Twinkies, which contains 39 complex ingredients, costs less than a bunch of carrots straight from the farm. The farm bill should serve all Americans, not just a few special interests.

Today, 70 percent of the payments go to the richest 10 percent of the farmers, while 60 percent of America's farmers and ranchers get no support whatsoever.

It is time for a food and farm bill of rights that provides a comprehensive guide to reform the farm bill. We must move beyond the policies that were written for the Depression or the 1950s to one designed for the world we live in today; and, more important, the world we want to live in tomorrow.

RIISING ENERGY COSTS

(Mrs. BLACKBURN asked and was given permission to address the House for 1 minute and to revise and extend her remarks.)

Mrs. BLACKBURN. Mr. Speaker, I rise to speak about the need for this Congress to address the rising energy costs across America. Gas prices are continuing to rise, and our energy needs across our country continue to increase. The American people expect us to do something about this, to solve the problem.

Yet the liberal leadership of this Congress is missing in action. Instead of